

## Annual Employee Survey

In September we asked all employees to complete and submit the annual employee transportation survey. This was the third year that employees could complete the survey online, and the majority of you did, with a great response rate of 91%.

work week schedule. The remaining 4% did not report to work during the survey week or did not return a survey. The survey also showed that nearly 350 employees ride the train or bus to work an average of 3 days per week and more and more employees are carpooling.

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The annual transportation survey gives us a one-week "snapshot" of our commuting patterns. In 2004, the "average vehicle ridership" (the number of employees arriving at work divided by the number of vehicles) increased from 1.22 to 1.24. This means every 1000 vehicles arriving at our worksites bring 1,240 employees to work. The survey showed that for the seventh year in a row, the percentage of employees driving alone continues to decrease and ridesharing is on the rise. 75% of our employees drive alone while 21% carpool, vanpool, ride the bus or train, walk or bike to work or work a compressed

Nearly 900 employees requested rideshare assistance such as help finding a carpool match (300), getting started riding the train (300) or bus (200) or joining a vanpool (100). In addition, nearly 700 have committed to rideshare 5 days a month and joined the Commuter Club through the survey process.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the survey, and don't forget about the winner of the \$100 gift certificate to MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana, and the winner was **Bonnie Forsyth, Assessors Office** (see page 4).

## Rideshare Program Of The Year

The County of Orange was nominated and won the Rideshare Program of the Year award from OCTA as part of their inaugural Mercury Mobility Awards recognizing outstanding rideshare programs in Orange County. The celebration was held in November at the Disneyland Hotel.

Over the past eight years of program implementation (1997-2004), the average vehicle ridership at the County of Orange has increased from 1.15 to 1.24. That rideshare participation level translates to over 3 million vehicle trips reduced over the eight-year period. Thanks to the participation of many employees, we are helping to reduce congestion and air pollution in the region. Congratulations and way to go!



Shelley Carlucci and Marc Gallonio of Employee Relations accept the Rideshare Of The Year award from OCTA

### Special points of interest:

- Go to [www.AAAMaps.com](http://www.AAAMaps.com) for accurate directions and "real-time" traffic information
- New website debuts soon for ridesharing information—[www.smartcommute.info](http://www.smartcommute.info)
- There are 970 miles of carpool lanes in Southern California

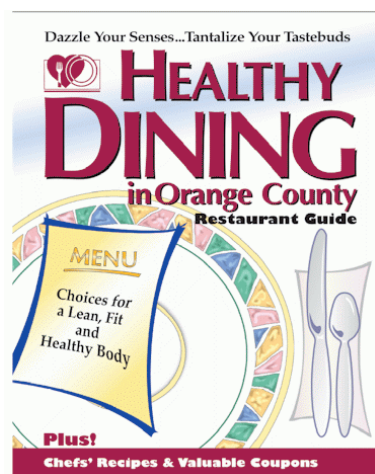


## New Park & Ride Lot Opens

We are happy to report that a new San Bernardino County Park & Ride lot recently opened. The new lot is located at Highland Avenue Community Church at 9944 Highland Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga. The lot can accommodate 50 carpools/vanpools, has lighting and is accessible 24/7.

To get there, take the 210 Freeway, exit at Archibald and turn right (north). Turn right on Highland Avenue and the church is located on the left hand side.

The San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) has plans to open two more new Park & Ride lots in San Bernardino and Victorville in the near future.



## Commuter Club News

It's back! You asked for a new version of the Healthy Dining Guide for Orange County, and we listened. New and renewing Commuter Club members will be receiving their new book by January. The Healthy Dining Guide is chock full of great discount coupons, recipes and lists of restaurants that offer healthy ways to eat. For more information, you can visit their web-site at [www.healthy-dining.com](http://www.healthy-dining.com).

If you'd like to join the Commuter Club reward program, you must commit to rideshare at least five times per month. For an application, go to the [Commuter Assistance Program web-site](http://www.healthy-dining.com) and click on Commuter Club. You can also pick up an application from one of the Commuter Information Display racks located at 30 worksites throughout the County, or you can call the Message Center at 714-834-4068.



Jacki Livingston,  
Social Services Agency

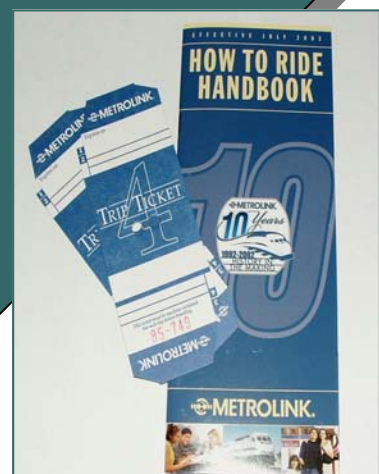
We've also added a quarterly drawing for a gift certificate for all current Commuter Club members! This quarter, the winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Mimi's Café was Jacki Livingston, Social Services Agency. Congratulations Jacki!

Do you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve the *County Commuter* newsletter or the [Commuter Assistance Program website](http://www.healthy-dining.com). Send a comment or suggestion to [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com) by the end of January 2005 and you'll be entered into a drawing to win a *Healthy Dining Guide*.



## Carpool Classifieds

The County's Carpool Classifieds was recently updated with new information received from the annual employee transportation survey. If you are interested in finding a carpool partner or to add your commute information to the list, simply log onto the [Commuter Assistance Program website](#) and click on Carpool Classifieds. We'll keep your information on the website for up to 12 months unless you ask us to remove it.



## Get Into Training Update

The Get Into Training incentive program is designed to encourage County employees to try riding the train to work for the first time. "New riders" receive three subsidies and a chance to win the quarterly drawing if they complete the program. In addition, ongoing "current riders" were subsidized annually for continuing to ride the train; however, the program has changed as follows:

Beginning in January 2005, the Get Into Training program will focus on working with "new riders" only. Ongoing "current riders" will be encouraged to enroll in the new Commuter Choice incentive program. The program allows current riders to purchase monthly Metrolink, bus, or vanpool "tickets" through the convenience of a monthly payroll deduction. Since the pass is purchased through payroll deductions, up to \$105 per month will be considered pre-tax, reducing your taxable income. The program will be available on a month-to-month basis and can be changed or cancelled at any time. The Commuter Choice Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form will be available on the [Commuter Assistance Program website](#) and the Commuter Information Display racks located at many County facilities.



## SR-22 Improvement Project

The Garden Grove (SR-22) Freeway is a vital east-west route linking five major freeways and several arterial corridors in central Orange County. It was built in the 1960s when Orange County's population was a little more than 700,000 residents. Today, Orange County's population is more than 3 million residents. With our increase in population, OCTA has initiated a project that will improve flow, remove bottlenecks and enhance safety. Here are the fast facts:

- Add two lanes in each direction from The City Drive to Beach Blvd
- Add one lane in each direction from Beach Blvd to Valley View Street
- Scheduled start time for the construction will begin in February 2005
- Scheduled project completion date is December 2006

For more details, visit  
[www.octa.net/sr22](http://www.octa.net/sr22) or call  
714-560-5717

Total project cost \$490 million – with monies coming from Orange County's Measure M program, Federal Highway Funds and the State of California's Traffic Congestion Relief Program. For more details, visit [www.octa.net/sr22](http://www.octa.net/sr22) or call 714-560-5717. For the most current information regarding closure and opening schedule, call the OCTA Transportation Helpline at 800-724-0353.



#### "Get Into Training"

Sign up and receive a free 4-trip ticket package

## Metrolink Winner

Each quarter as part of the "Get Into Training" program, we award a \$100 transit voucher to one lucky Metrolink rider who has submitted their subsidy application for the new rider or current rider program.

***Congratulations to William Redden, HCA/Employee Health!***

William started the "Get Into Training" program as a current rider in July of 2003 and has been commuting regularly from the Riverside Metrolink station to Santa Ana.

If you are interested in participating in the Get Into Training program, log onto the [Commuter Assistance Program website](#), and click on Commuter Rail Subsidy for New Riders.

## Annual Survey Drawing Winner



Congratulations to Bonnie Forsyth, Assessors Office on winning the \$100 gift certificate to MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana.



## OCTA Rideshare Week 2004 Winners

#### Commuter Assistance Program

County of Orange  
CEO/Employee Relations  
10 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
714-834-4068  
714-834-5520 FAX  
[rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com)  
[www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare](http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare)

The County Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the CEO/Employee Relations. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to the web site.

To encourage commuters to participate in California Rideshare Week (October 4-8), OCTA organized a contest with prizes including a shopping spree.

Many County of Orange employees participated in the contest by submitting activity cards during California Rideshare Week.

***Congratulation to the following winners!***

Wendy Whitford—\$50 Sears Gift Card  
Patti La Porte—\$25 Target Gift Card  
MyLinh Tu—Metrolink 4-trip Ticket



Wendy Whitford, Assessors Office